

Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District

Security Screening Procedures



Courtroom Etiquette:

- While the court is in session, please be silent.
- Only counsel (attorneys representing cases) may address the court.
- A court session begins when the justices enter the courtroom and take their seats, and a court official announces that court is in session.
- When court is in session, if you walk out while a case is being heard, be prepared to not be allowed back into the courtroom until that case has concluded.

Court Security Screening:

Thank you for visiting the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District. As always, every person will be screened prior to entering the court facility. This process includes walking through an advanced threat detection millimeter wave scanner for both metallic and nonmetallic threats, and/or manual screening through a hand-held metal detector. Any personal item you carry into the court facility (bags, purses, wallets) will be inspected, passed through an X-ray scanner, and if determined necessary, hand searched. In order to expedite your entrance into the court facility, we request the following:

1. **No electronic devices of ANY KIND are allowed in the courtroom except for medical devices.** These items may be checked at security prior to entry. Only attorneys arguing cases may bring a laptop or tablet, which may only be used at the counsel table, during oral argument.
2. **Any items that would be construed as a weapon will not be allowed on court premises.** This includes but is not limited to pocket knives, letter openers, mace or pepper spray, or any other item that can be used as a weapon. California Penal Code, Section 171b, subdivision (a).
3. **No food or drinks** are allowed in the courtroom.
4. **No animals** are allowed in the court facility except for approved service animals.
5. **Remove any physical objects (metal and non-metal) on your person** and place them in an X-ray security bin prior to walking through the advanced threat detection millimeter wave scanner. (i.e. keys, change, necklaces, bracelets, lighters, wallet, phone, tie-clip, etc.). Millimeter wave scanners are advanced threat detection systems designed to detect all objects (*not just metal*).
6. **Appropriate Clothing** is required: no tank tops, shorts, sunglasses, shirts with inappropriate graphics or hats may be worn during the court session. Pants may not be worn so low that undergarments are visible.
7. No items may be brought into the courtroom that security determines may interfere with court proceedings.